


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): An animal excretions-treating material ~~comprises~~ comprising particles, each particle being composed of a core layer of fibers and a skin layer to cover the core layer, the skin layer containing α -starch and fibers.

Claim 2 (previously amended): The animal excretions-treating material as set forth in claim 1, wherein the fibers constituting the skin layer are short fibers having a mean fiber length in a range of 0.02 to 1 mm.

 Claim 3 (original): The animal excretions treating-material as set forth in claim 1, wherein the mean particle size of the α -starch in the skin layer is at most 0.25 mm.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The animal excretions-treating material as set forth in claim 1, wherein the composition of the skin layer is in a ratio of a α -starch to fibers in a range of 20 to 80 and 80 to 20.


Claim 5 (original): The animal excretions treating-material as set forth in claim 1, wherein the fibers in the skin layer are those of pulp.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The animal excretions-treating material as set forth in claim 1, wherein the α -starch in the skin layer is tapioca α -starch.

Claim 7 (original): The animal excretions-treating material as set forth in claim 1, wherein the fibers in the core layer are those of pulp.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The animal excretions-treating material as set forth in claim 1, which has a bulk density in a range of 0.1 ~~and~~ to 0.5 g/cm³.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The animal excretions-treating material as set forth in claim 1, wherein the particle has a diameter in a range of 2 ~~and~~ to 20 mm.

 Claim 10 (new): An animal excretions-treating material comprising particles, each particle being flushable in a toilet and composed of a core layer of fibers and a skin layer to cover the core layer, the skin layer containing α -starch and fibers to increase fluid absorption of each particle.

Claim 11 (new): The animal excretions-treating material as set forth in claim 1, wherein the α -starch is contained only in the skin layer.

Claim 12 (new): An animal excretions-treating material comprising particles, each particle being biodegradable in a septic tank and composed of a core layer of fibers and a skin layer to cover the core layer, the skin layer containing α -starch and short fibers of pulp having a mean fiber length in a range of 0.02 to 1 mm, the composition of the skin layer being in a ratio of the α -starch to the short fibers in a range of 20:80 to 80:20.

B1 Claim 13 (new): An animal excretions-treating material comprising particles, each particle being flushable in a toilet and composed of a core layer of fibers and a skin layer to cover the core layer, the skin layer containing pregelatinized starch and fibers.
